

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. Claims 1-12 are hereby amended to correct minor grammatical errors. Claims 13-18 are new. Support for new claims 13-18 is provided throughout the Specification and particularly at pages 26-27, 50-58 and 64. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims 1-12 are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claim 11 was objected to because “the replaceable recording medium” lacked clear antecedent basis. Applicants have amended claim 11, thereby obviating the objection.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11 and 12 are independent. Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over US 2002/0035664 A1 to Yates et al. (“Yates”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,100,788 to Frary (“Frary”).

The rejection of claims 1-12 is respectfully traversed because Yates and Frary, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the features of the claimed invention.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*,

“An information recorder...
wherein the writing/reading means writes the meta data extracted by the extracting means to the contactless information storage means;
means for characterizing at least a portion of the material signals as a function of the meta data; and
means for editing the portion of the material signals.” (emphasis added)

Independent claim 4 is a corresponding method claim and is similar in scope.

As understood by Applicants, Yates relates to a virtual tape storage device that can store an image of a virtual tape volume either as a stacked image or as a native image that is essentially indistinguishable from the image that would have been written had the host written the volume directly to the tape.

As understood by Applicants, Frary relates to a multifunctional electromagnetic transponder device for tracking objects, such as tape cartridges, utilized in different types of environments. This device includes a first antenna operating at a first range of frequencies and a second antenna operating at a second range of frequencies, different from the first range of frequencies. A reader/writer mechanism is associated with each of the environments to generate a first communication signal at the first range of frequencies and a second communication signal at the second range of frequencies. A control logic having a memory is coupled to the first and second antennas for processing the first and second communication signals and automatically generating a first or second response

signal for receipt by the reader/writer mechanism via the first and second antennas, respectively.

Applicants submit that neither Yates nor Frary, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest writing/reading means that write the meta data extracted by the extracting means to the contactless information storage means; means for characterizing at least a portion of the material signals as a function of the meta data; and means for editing the portion of the material signals, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable.

Since claim 4 is similar in scope to claim 1, Applicants submit that claim 4 is allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Independent claim 7 recites, *inter alia*,

“An information recorder...
wherein the writing/reading means writes the generated meta data to the contactless information storage means;
means for characterizing at least a portion of the material signals as a function of the meta data; and
means for editing the portion of the material signals.” (emphasis added)

Independent claim 9 is a corresponding method claim and is similar in scope

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Yates or Frary, taken alone or in combination that would teach or suggest means for characterizing at least a portion of the material signals as a function of the meta data; and means for editing the portion of the material signals, as recited in claim 7.

Since claim 9 is similar in scope to claim 7, Applicants submit that claim 9 is allowable for the same reasons as claim 7.

Independent claims 11 and 12 also recite the characterizing and editing features discussed in relation to claims 1, 4, 7 and 9 and, thus, claims 11 and 12 are patentable for the same reasons.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

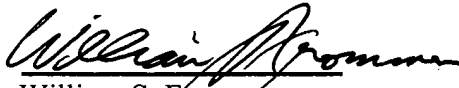
While Applicants note that the Office Action indicates additional art, which was not used as a basis of rejection, Applicants do not represent that they have exhaustively reviewed such additional art.

Statements appearing above in respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney and, in the event the Examiner disagrees with any of such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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